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ABSTRACT

Supplementing a guide published in 1995, this annotated bibliography contains 80 one-page listings of books for adult learners in adult basic education (ABE) and General Educational Development (GED) programs. Arranged in alphabetical order by author, each listing includes the following: title, author's name, illustrator's name, date of publication, publisher, city of publication, ISBN number, type, rating as decided by at least three reviewers, whether pictures are included, reading level, rural or urban, themes, summary, and teaching ideas. Books are also listed according to the following themes: African American experience; Appalachia; architecture; communities and change; death; family; farm life; history of Ohio; history of the United States; history of the world; humor; immigration; music; reminiscences; science; tales; war; and work. Listings by genres include biographies, drama, essays, photography, poetry, and short stories. Books were selected through evaluation by a minimum of three readers, discussion, and rating of "whole-hearted approval," or "guidance," alerting teachers that they may want to provide background information or handle the book in a special way. (KC)

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ED 414 405

Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Annotated Bibliography with Teaching Suggestions Part II

Compiled by

Patricia L. Bloem

and

Nancy D. Padak

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This collection has been funded by the Ohio Literacy Resource Center.

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Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Part Two

This years supplement to Recommended Trade Books for Adult Literacy Programs: Annotated Bibliography with Teaching Suggestions demonstrates that there are dozens of appropriate books for adult learners. Our list includes compelling fiction and books on just about any theme or topic that an ABE or GED teacher might address in class. As Barbara Elleman, editor of Book Links, said in "Picture Book Potential," the genre now reaches a much wider audience than just young children. The book holds potential as models for students' writing, as stimulating material for class discussions, and for aesthetic opportunities in classrooms for learners of various ages (Book Links, March 1996, p. 5). We at the Ohio Literacy Resource Center believe that the same can be said of young adult fiction. The potential is there.

Still, we wish to underscore the importance of choosing books carefully. For inexperienced readers, the match between book and reader is crucial. This compilation identifies books that will draw students in, spark their imaginations, and touch them intellectually and emotionally. Thus this annotated bibliography provides the first step in finding just the right book for the adult learners in ABE and GED programs (we also list books that would fit well in ESL and Family Literacy programs, but those have not been our primary focus). It is up to you as the teacher to get the right book into the student's hands.

Selection Process and Symbols

We have followed a painstaking process in order to choose books well. Each book has been evaluated by a minimum of three readers. We examined our own responses to the art work and the texts. We have discussed whether the point-of-view invites the adult reader in and whether the book provides opportunity for discussion or instruction. Then we have rated the books with either a W, for whole-hearted approval, or a G for guidance, alerting the teacher to the fact that s/he may want to provide background information or handle the book in a special way. Each page lists bibliographical information including the ISBN number (remember that Book Wholesalers, Inc. offers 40% off list price and requires the use of this number; contact the OLRC to further information). The teaching ideas offer varied suggestions for how to use these or other texts in adult learning settings. We have eliminated page numbers but punched the pages for a three-ring binder so that these pages can be inserted into last year's book and combined with those listings. We suggest that you put the pages in alphabetical order by author's last name.

This Year's List

Several trends emerge in this list. Teachers who want to make history come to life will find plenty of books to their liking, whether it be documentary (i.e., Ballard's Exploring the Titanic), fictionalized history (i.e., Stanley's Good Queen Bess), biography (i.e., Lyons' Starting Home), or current autobiographical history (i.e., Delany & Delany's Having Our Say, a long but accessible and very popular book). We have latched on to several good GED titles and science titles and have created a whole unit on flight (including Burleigh's account of Lindbergh's

voyage and Freedman's book on the Wright Brothers). We have continued to list fiction which we have found to be sure-fire winners. You might give Rylant's Couple of Kooks to students who gravitate toward romance. Or try George Ella Lyon's Choices and More Choices, two books of short stories which are not easily found or purchased as our books usually are (these were the only two that we could not obtain through the inter-library loan program of our local library), but because of their stellar quality and rave reviews we have included them in this year's list. But we could enthusiastically discuss every book listed here, since each one deserves a place in adult programs.

Conclusion

Using the right book can be the difference between a student returning to class the next day or giving up, the difference between excitement about learning or merely going through the motions. Please use this compilation. More importantly, please use these outstanding trade books with your students, and let books make a difference in their learning and their lives.

Patricia L. Bloem
Nancy D. Padak
June, 1996

Thematic Collections Index

With nearly 200 recommended books in our compilation, we are now able to provide an additional resource for teachers: following the listing of books by themes (and genre). Each individual piece of literature is usually about several "things"; we have sorted by these major themes or categories to create this list.

The titles within each theme range from picture books to young adult literature. Some are very easy, appropriate for beginning readers or ESL students, and others may be best for teacher read-aloud or for GED students to read independently. The notion of grade level of difficulty (or readability level) has no meaning for these titles, aside from the general notes that we have made about individual titles. As always, we recommend that you read specific titles and think about your learners' needs and interests as well as the way your program is structured before using the books instructionally.

Some of the themes on this list relate to GED topics (e.g., a rather extensive list of books related to U.S. history). Other themes represent more general topics that may be of interest to adult learners (e.g., titles about Appalachia or the African-American experience). We have also grouped titles by genre (e.g., biography, poetry, drama, essays, short stories), which may facilitate literature study for the GED.

We hope you find these thematic groupings helpful as you plan to use these recommended books in your programs. Please let us know if you see other thematic groupings within these titles, so that we can include your ideas in our next update. Happy reading!

Thematic Collections Index
Ohio Literacy Resource Center Reading Group
June, 1996

THEMES

AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

see also US History, Poetry
Adoff, All the Colors of the Race
Agard, J. & Nichols, G., A Caribbean Dozen: Poems from Caribbean Poets
Angelou, Life Doesn't Threaten Me at All
Angelou, Now Sheba Sings the Song
Delany & Delany, Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years
Eskridge, The Sanctuary
Feelings, The Soul Looks Back in Wonder
Gilchrist, Indigo Blue and Moonlight Gold
Hamilton, Drylongso
Johnson, Toning the Sweep
Lester, John Henry
Mathis, A Hundred Penny Box
Mitchell, Uncle Jed's Barbershop
Monceaux, Jazz: My Music, My People
Myers, Somewhere in the Darkness
Polacco, Chicken Sunday
Price, Aida
Stanley, Cleopatra
Walker, To Hell with Dying
Wright, Rite of Passage

APPALACHIA

Carson, Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet
Lyon, Choices
Lyon, More Choices: Stories for New Adult Readers
Rylant, An Angel for Solomon Singer
Rylant, Appalachia
Rylant, When I Was Young in the Mountains

ARCHITECTURE

Macaulay, Castle
Macaulay, Cathedral
Macaulay, Pyramid
Morris, Houses and Homes

COMMUNITIES AND CHANGE

Ada, The Gold Coin
Bowen, Stranded at Plimoth Plantation 1626
Bunting, Fly Away Home
Cooney, Miss Rumphius
Craven, I Heard the Owl Call my Name
Dragonwagon, Home Place
Eskridge, The Sanctuary
Fisher, Kinderdike
Hendershot, In Coal Country
Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird
Levine, Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand
Morris, Bread, bread, bread
Polacco, Chicken Sunday
Stanley, The Last Princess
Temple, Taste of Salt
Temple, Tonight By Sea
Thomas, Lights on the River
Walker, To Hell with Dying
Wolff, Make Lemonade
Yolen, Letting Swift River Go

DEATH

Craven, I Heard the Owl Call my Name
Gauch, Thunder at Gettysburg
Gregory, Through the Mickle Woods
Johnson, Toning the Sweep
Kinsey-Warnock, The Night the Bells Rang
MacLachlan, Baby
Macaulay, Pyramid
Mathis, One Hundred Penny Box
Maugham, Appointment
Myers, Somewhere in the Darkness
Rylant, Missing May
Temple, Taste of Salt
Temple, Tonight, By Sea
Walker, To Hell with Dying
Wild, The Very Best of Friends

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FAMILY

Andrews, The Auction
Bartone, Peppe the Lamplighter
Bunting, A Day's Work
Carson, Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet
Coville, William Shakespeare's The Tempest
Johnson, Toning the Sweep
Kinsey-Warnock, The Night the Bells Rang
MacLachlan, All the Places to Love
MacLachlan, Baby
MacLachlan, Journey
MacLachlan, Sarah, Plain and Tall
Mathis, A Hundred Penny Box
Myers, Somewhere in the Darkness
Polacco, Chicken Sunday
Rylant, A Couple of Kooks and other Stories About Love
Rylant, Missing May
Say, Grandfather's Journey
Say, The Lost Lake
Thomas, Lights on the River
Walker, To Hell with Dying
Wells, Waiting for the Evening Star
Wright, Rite of Passage

FARM LIFE

Andrews, The Auction
Hall, The Farm Summer 1942
Kinsey-Warnock, The Night the Bells Rang
MacLachlan, All the Places to Love
Morris, Morning Milking
Wells, Waiting for the Evening Star

HISTORY--OHIO

Fleischman, The Borning Room
Freedman, The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane
Hamilton, The Bells of Christmas
Hendershot, In Coal Country
Hendershot, Up the Tracks
Sanders, Aurora Means Dawn

HISTORY--U.S.

A. Founding the Country

Bowen, Stranded at Plimoth Plantation 1626
Littlechild, This Land Is My Land
Longfellow, Paul Revere's Ride
Roop, I, Columbus
Yolen, Encounter

B. Settling the Country

Fleischman, The Borning Room
Littlechild, This Land is My Land
Sanders, Aurora Means Dawn
Turner, Dakota Dugout
Turner, Katie's Trunk
Van Leeuwen, Going West

C. 19th Century

Bedard, Emily
Bial, The Underground Railroad
Blos, A Gathering of Days
Everett, John Brown: One Man Against Slavery
Gauch, Thunder at Gettysburg
Hamilton, Anthony Burns
Hamilton, The Bells of Christmas
Hopkinson, Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Johnson, Now Let Me Fly
Lawrence, Harriet and the Promised Land
Lester, Long Journey Home
Lyons, Letters from a Slave Girl
MacLachlan, Sarah, Plain and Tall
Murphy, Into the Deep Forest: With Henry David Thoreau
Paterson, Lyddie
Paulsen, Nightjohn
Polacco, Pink and Say

D. 20th Century

Ballard, Exploring the Titanic: How the Greatest Ship Ever Lost-Was Found
Belton, From Miss Ida's Porch
Bunting, Fly Away Home
Bunting, How Many Days to America?
Bunting, Smoky Night
Bunting, The Wall

Cooper, Coming Home
Freedman, Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor
Hamanaka, The Journey
Hendershot, In Coal Country
Lawrence, The Great Migration
Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird
Littlechild, This Land Is My Land
Lyons, Sorrow's Kitchen
Lyons, Starting Home
Mitchell, Uncle Jed's Barbershop
Murphy, Across America on an Emigrant Train
Rylant & Evans, Something Permanent
Stanley, The Last Princess
Temple, Grab Hands and Run
Wells, Waiting for the Evening Star

E. African-American

Adler, A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass
Adler, A Picture Book of Jesse Owens
Adler, A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth
Altman & Lechner, Followers of the North Star
Belton, From Miss Ida's Porch
Hamilton, Anthony Burns
Hamilton, The Bells of Christmas
Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun
Hopkinson, Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt
Hughes, The Dream Keeper & Other Poems
Johnson, Now Let Me Fly
Lawrence, Harriet and the Promised Land
Lawrence, The Great Migration
Lester, Long Journey Home
Lyons, Letters from a Slave Girl
Lyons, Sorrow's Kitchen: Zora Neale Hurston
McKissack & McKissack, Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters
Myers, Brown Angels: An Album
Myers, Now is Your Time
Paulsen, Nightjohn
Pinkney, Dear Benjamin Banneker
Thomas, Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea
Wright, Jumping the Broom
**Berry, Ajeemah and His Son--about slavery but set in Jamaica

HISTORY--WORLD

see also war
Adler, A Picture Book of Simon Bolivar

Anno, Anno's History
Cech, My Grandmother's Journey
Foreman, War Boy
Foreman, War Game
Garland, The Lotus Seed
Macaulay, Castle
Macaulay, Cathedral
Macaulay, Pyramid
Meltzer, Cheap Raw Material: How Our Youngest Workers Are Exploited and Abused
Musgrove, Ashanti to Zulu
Provensen, A. & M., The Glorious Flight Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot
Stanley, Cleopatra
Stanley & Vennema, Good Queen Bess: The Story of Elizabeth 1 of England
Stanley & Vennema, Charles Dickens: The Man Who Had Great Expectations
Temple, A Taste of Salt

HUMOR

Jenkins, Duck's Breath and Mouse Pie: A Collection of Animal Superstitions
Levine, Pearl Moscowitz's Last Stand
Mariotti, Hanimations
Sciezka, Math Curse

IMMIGRATION

Bartone, Peppe The Lamplighter
Bunting, A Day's Work
Bunting, How Many Days to America?
Cech, My Grandmother's Journey
Garland, The Lotus Seed
Say, Grandfather's Journey
Temple, Grab Hands and Run
Temple, Tonight, By Sea
Thomas, Lights on the River

MUSIC

Monceaux, Jazz: My Music, My People

REMINISCENCES

Cooney, Miss Rumphius
Delany & Delany, Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years
Hall, The Farm Summer 1942
Hendershot, Up the Tracks
Hendershot, In Coal Country
Littlechild, This Land is My Land

MacLachlan, All the Places to Love
Mitchell, Uncle Jed's Barbershop
Morris, Morning Milking
Paulsen, The Winter Room
Rylant, Appalachia: Voices of Sleeping Birds
Rylant, I Had Seen Castles
Rylant, When I Was Young
Wells, Waiting for the Evening Star

SCIENCE

A. Nature

Baylor, I'm in Charge of Celebrations
Dragonwagon, Home Place
Gherman, The Mysterious Rays of Dr. Rontgen
Kitchen, And So They Build
Lasky, Sunsey
Macaulay, Cathedral
McCloskey, Time of Wonder
Melville, A Catskill Eagle
Murphy, Into the Deep Forest: With Henry David Thoreau
Paulsen, Father Water, Mother Woods
Pinkney, Dear Benjamin Banneker
Roop & Roop, Capturing Nature: The Writings of John James Audubon
Simon, Winter Across America
Wood, Spirit Walker

B. Animals

Kitchen, When Hunger Calls
Lerner, Backyard Birds
Simon, Winter Across America

C. Flight

Burleigh, Flight
Freedman, The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane
Jefferis, Timelines Flight: Fliers and Flying Machines
Provensen, A. & Provensen, M., The Glorious Flight Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot

TALES

Ada, The Gold Coin
Bang, Dawn
Bruchac, The First Strawberries
Chocolate, Talk, Talk

Fisher, Kinderdike
Gregory, Through the Mickle Woods
Hamilton, Drylonso
Lee, Toad is the Uncle
Lester, John Henry
McDermott, The Stone-Cutter
Price, Aida
Rylant, The Dreamer
Shulevitz, The Secret Room
Van Allsburg, The Widow's Broom
Volkmer, Song of the Chirimia
Waldherr, Persephone and the Pomegranite

WAR

Abells, The Children We Remember
Bunting, The Wall
Everett, One Man Against Slavery
Foreman, War Boy
Foreman, War Game
Gauch, Thunder at Gettysburg
Hall, The Farm Summer 1942
Hamanaka, The Journey
Innocenti, Rose Blanche
Kinsey-Warnock, The Night the Bells Rang
Lyons, Starting Home
Mochizuki, Baseball Saved Us
Morimoto, My Hiroshima
Oppenheim, The Lily Cupboard
Polacco, Pink and Say
Rylant, I Had Seen Castles
Temple, Taste of Salt
Tsuchiya, Faithful Elephants
Turner, Katie's Trunk
Verhoeven, Anne Frank: Beyond the Diary
Volavkova, I Never Saw Another Butterfly
Wells, Waiting for the Evening Star
Wild, Let the Celebration Begin!

WORK

Andrews, The Auction
Freedman, Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor
Lyons, Starting Home
Meltzer, Cheap Raw Material: How Our Youngest Workers are Exploited and Abused
Morris, Houses and Homes
Paterson, Lyddie
Roop & Roop, Capturing Nature

GENRES

BIOGRAPHIES

Adler, A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass
Adler, A Picture Book of Jesse Owens
Adler, A Picture Book of Simon Bolivar
Adler, A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth
Agard, J. & Nichols, G., A Caribbean Dozen: Poems from Caribbean Poets
Bedard, Emily
Burleigh, Flight
Cooper, Coming Home
Delany & Delany, Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years
Everett, John Brown: One Man Against Slavery
Freedman, The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane
Gherman, The Mysterious Rays of Dr. Rontgen
Lyons, Starting Home
Murphy, Across America on an Emigrant Train
Murphy, Into the Deep Forest: With Henry David Thoreau
Pinkney, Dear Benjamin Banneker
Roop & Roop, Capturing Nature: The Writings of John James Audubon
Stanley, The Last Princess
Stanley & Vennema, Good Queen Bess: The Story of Elizabeth 1 of England
Stanley & Vennema, Charles Dickens: The Man Who Had Great Expectations

DRAMA

Coville, William Shakespeare's The Tempest
Hansberry, A Raisin in the Sun

ESSAYS

Paulsen, Father Water, Mother Woods

PHOTOGRAPHY

Bial, The Underground Railroad
Meltzer, Cheap Raw Material
Morris, Houses and Homes
Murphy, Across America
Myers, Now is Your Time
Rylant & Evans, Something Permanent
Simon, Winter Across America

POETRY

Adoff, All the Colors of the Race
Agard & Nichols, A Caribbean Dozen: Poems from Caribbean Poets
Altman and Lechner, Followers of the North Star
Angelou, Now Sheba Sings the Song
Angelou, Life Doesn't Frighten Me
Bedard, Emily
Begay, Navajo: Visions and Voices Across the Mesa
Carson, Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet
Feelings, The Soul Looks Back in Wonder
Frost, Birches
Hughes, The Dream Keeper and Other Poems
Longfellow, Paul Revere's Ride
Myers, Brown Angels: An Album
Rylant, Something Permanent
Thomas, Brown Honey in Broomwheat Tea
Wood, Spirit Walker

SHORT STORIES

Lester, Long Journey Home
Lyon, Choices
Lyon, More Choices: Stories for New Adult Readers
Rylant, A Couple of Kooks and Other Stories About Love
Rylant, Every Living Thing
Rylant, A Couple of Kooks

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1-800-765-2897 OR 330-672-2007
EMAIL ADDRESS: OLRC@KENTVM.KENT.EDU

June, 1996

Author : **Ada, F.**

Illustrator : Waldman, N.

Title : **The Gold Coin**

Date : 1991

Publisher : Atheneum

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-689-31633-X

Type : legend
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : legends, tales, generosity, isolation, community, Latin America

Summary : A thief follows an old woman and learns a lesson about giving.

Teaching Ideas : This story might prompt interesting discussion on how folks change or on random acts of kindness. Learners could use the story frame to write their own versions set in modern times and their own settings.

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June, 1996

Author : **Adler, D.** Illustrator : Byrd, S.

Title : **A Picture Book of Frederick Douglass** Date : 1993

Publisher : Holiday House City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8234-1002-1

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-American heroes, slavery, reading, US history, Civil War, freedom, Abraham Lincoln

Summary : This engaging biography tells the life story of the civil rights leader Frederick Douglass and the role he played in a turbulent time of the United States. The book ends with author's notes and a timeline. The Adler biographies are well-written and accessible, which make them appropriate reading for almost all ABE students.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to work through the timeline of Douglass' life and compare it with other dates and events of history. For example, students may read Lawrence's Harriet and the Promised Land, research Tubman's dates, and juxtapose the two timelines. Students may want to write a response to these questions: What role did literacy play in the lives of downtrodden and persecuted people in the 19th century? What role does it play today? The book would fit well with Paulsen's Nightjohn or other slavery books, or it would work well in a unit on important American heroes.

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June, 1996

Author : **Adler, D.** Illustrator : Casilla, R.

Title : **A Picture Book of Jesse Owens** Date : 1992

Publisher : Holiday House City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-8234-1066-8 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-Americans, prejudice, racism, World War II, heroes, athletics, Olympics

Summary : This very readable biography tells the life story of Jesse Owens, the 1936 Olympic star, and the prejudice he combated throughout his life. The book ends with a page of notes and a page of dates.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may ask students to read each page carefully and create a time line for Owens' life, and when they've finished, to check their work against the last page of the book. This book would fit well into several different units: US 20th century history (especially in connection with Hitler), African-American heroes, Ohio history, sports, people who take risks. Students may want to write essays about the experience of feeling rejected and of being the outsider. Teachers might want to look at Adler's many other biographies.

June, 1996

Author : **Adler, D.** Illustrator : Casilla, R.

Title : **A Picture Book of Simon Bolivar** Date : 1992

Publisher : Holiday House City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8234-0927-9

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a : y
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : heroes, South American history

Summary : Adler describes Simon Bolivar's life and character, showing how his courage and dedication enabled him to achieve his goal: to liberate his native Venezuela from Spain.

Teaching Ideas : This book would work well in text sets on biography, revolutions (including, perhaps US Revolutionary War), or freedom fighters (with books about Civil Rights heroes, Tubman, etc.). Depending on the topic of the text set, teachers could easily invite generalizations and comparisons: What makes a good biography? What do these freedom fighters have in common? etc. Class charts synthesizing important information can be created, which would provide a natural opportunity to teach note-taking and summarizing skills. Maps of Spain, Europe, and South America would enrich the book, as learners could find locations mentioned in the book. In addition to map-reading instruction, the book and maps could together be used to pose some interesting problems for learners to solve, e.g., Where do you think Bolivar boarded the boat to Europe? Why? How do you think he travelled from Spain to France? Why? How long do you think it might have taken him to travel from Spain to France? Why? Teachers may want to look at the rest of Adler's biography series.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

June, 1996

Author : **Adler, D.** Illustrator : Griffith, G.

Title : **A Picture Book of Sojourner Truth** Date : 1994

Publisher : Holiday House City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8234-1072-2

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : biography, Civil War, African-American heroes, slavery, women leaders, 19th century US history, civil disobedience, Abraham Lincoln

Summary : As with the other Adler biographies, most readers will find this book engaging and thought provoking. It tells the life story of Sojourner Truth, an African-American woman who lived through most of the 19th century. The book ends with author's notes and a timeline.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to pair this book with Adler's biography of Frederick Douglass, whose life spanned almost the same years as Sojourner Truth's, and with Polacco's Pink and Say, a fictional story of the Civil War. Students may also want to compare Truth with Rosa Parks, who lived a century later. The book would fit well into several units including African-American heroes, slavery, biographies, civil disobedience, women in history, and US history.

June, 1996

Author : **Agard, J. & Nichols, G.**

Illustrator : Felstead, C.

Title : **A Caribbean Dozen: Poems from Caribbean Poets**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Candlewick Press

City : Cambridge, MA

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-56402-339-7

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : poetry, biography, Caribbean culture, food, animals, the sea

Summary : This book includes many short poems, some childish and some more complex, written by contemporary Caribbean poets. It also includes fascinating biographies on each author.

Teaching Ideas : While some adult readers may find this poetry book childish in spirit, adult students in ESL, family literacy programs, or level one ABE will find many of the poems accessible and fun. Some of the very short and predictable poems are appropriate for new readers and fluency work. Those poems with heavy dialect may need to be read aloud. Some lend themselves to choral readings. Teachers may want students to study the map and use the poems with geography study. Students may want to bring in Caribbean music or food, or write their own poems in response to these.

June, 1996

Author : **Andrews, J.** Illustrator : Reczuch, K.

Title : **The Auction** Date : 1991

Publisher : Macmillan Publishing Co City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-705535-3

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : reminiscences, farm, family, death

Summary : In this sad intergenerational story, a boy and his grandfather reminisce the night before their farm is put up for sale.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to read this aloud and ask students to record their responses in their journals. It fits into a rural unit, a unit on farm life, on intergenerational stories or on families. It may inspire storytelling or story writing in student readers.

June, 1996

Author : **Anno, M.**

Illustrator : Anno, M.

Title : **Anno's Journey**

Date : 1977

Publisher : Philomel Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-399-22506-4

ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : wordless
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : Europe, journeys, community, architecture

Summary : Anno arrives by small boat, bargains for a horse, and begins a journey across Europe that crosses countries and merges past with present. The reader sees quiet villages, working farms, towering castles, and bustling cities. This world is populated with a cross-section of humanity and enchanted creatures from fairy tales, art, and music. The journey is discovering the wonder of life that fills each page.

Teaching Ideas : This wordless book can be read (repeatedly) just for the fun of it. Pairs of learners (or tutor-learner pairs) can talk about what they see on each page, either descriptively or in guessing-game format. The results of these discussions can be scripted (via language-experience approach) to create reading material. Learners could write stories based on the illustrations as well.

June, 1996

Author : **Ballard, R.** Illustrator : Marschall, K.

Title : **Exploring the Titanic: How the Greatest Ship Ever Lost-Was Found** Date : 1988

Publisher : Scholastic/Madison Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-590-41952-8 ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-41953-6

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : US history, 20th century history, ships, disasters, underwater exploration, documentary

Summary : Author Robert Ballard led the expedition to find and explore the Titanic. This book simultaneously tells the story of the Titanic's construction, maiden voyage, sinking, and rediscovery. This is a long book, and only GED students would be able to read it independently. However, it's very interesting and reads like a fictional adventure.

Teaching Ideas : The "early years" part could work well with study of the early 20th century. Original photographs and charts complement the story. The story of Ballard's expedition is loaded with links to science and math. Either story might be supplemented with newspaper or magazine articles. Internet users will want to search the WWW using "Titanic" for the search topic. The Web contains lots of interesting information, including Ballard's own home page.

June, 1996

Author : **Bedard, M.**

Illustrator : Cooney, B.

Title : **Emily**

Date : 1992

Publisher : Doubleday

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-385-30697-0

Type : historical fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : literature, 19th century New England, intergenerational friendship, Emily Dickinson's poetry, American authors

Summary : This book tells the story of a young girl's encounter with the reclusive poet Emily Dickinson and of her friendship with the author. Although the picture book is a fictional account, Cooney's oil paintings and the afterword with biographical information about Dickinson lend an historical credence.

Teaching Ideas : Because this book is historically accurate and matter-of-fact, the child protagonist does not make the book childish. The book makes an obvious introduction to Dickinson's poetry and might be used with the Dickinson chapter from Kroll's Lives of the Writers. However, since many students will not be familiar with Dickinson or her poetry, it is important that teachers introduce her work first and talk about her life. Teachers may want simply to read the book aloud. Students may enjoy writing a fictional biography for another author they like. This book may fit into a unit on representations of authors' lives (along with Miller's Zora Neale Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree or Cooper's Coming Home).

June, 1996

Author : **Begay, S.** Illustrator : Begay, S.

Title : **Navajo: Visions and Voices Across the Mesa** Date : 1995

Publisher : Scholastic Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-46153-2

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : Native American lives, poetry, community, families, the environment

Summary : Shonto Begay's artwork has been celebrated throughout the southwestern U.S for decades. Twenty of his paintings are the illustrations for this book. Each painting is accompanied by a poem.

Teaching Ideas : Illustrations are very interesting. Teachers will probably want to excerpt the poems for use within other units, unless students are interested in focusing on Native American culture. Many of the poems deal with nature; in addition teachers might want to consider these poems for use with other units; "Creation" with story-telling or creation stories; "Grandmother" and "Down Highway 163" with elderly, aging; "Reflections" with Drylongso or study of drought; "Death Hogan" with death. It might also be fun to use some passages from Tony Hillerman's books about Officer Jim and his attempts to learn to sing the Blessing way of Navajo healing. Such excerpts would contribute detail that this text lacks.

June, 1996

Author : **Bial, R.**

Illustrator : Bial, R.

Title : **The Underground Railroad**

Date : 1995

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin Co.

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-69937-1

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : slavery, underground railroad, documentaries, 19th century US history, African American history, Ohio history, civil disobedience, photography

Summary : The photos and illustrations and text combine into a wonderful teaching tool on slavery. Several readers commented on how much new information they gleaned from this book of nonfiction. The book includes a timeline.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to excerpt from this or assign the book in its entirety. It would fit well in combination with books on Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, or John Brown. Students may want to study a map in conjunction with the book (one good one is included), or they may want to discuss the Quakers and others who chose civil disobedience during the slavery years.

June, 1996

Author : **Bowen, G.** Illustrator : Bowen, G.

Title : **Stranded at Plimoth Plantation 1626** Date : 1994

Publisher : HarperCollins Publishers City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-022541-6

Type : journal
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : US History, pilgrims, Puritans, journals, colonization

Summary : This is the fictitous journal of a 13 year-old orphan stranded at Plimoth (sic) Plantation. Bowen constructed the 80-page journal from historical records and illustrated the words with marvelous woodcuts. The end pages too feature fascinating maps. Teachers may have to help students with some vocabulary or historical details.

Teaching Ideas : This is an unusual book that could be used in creative ways. Of course it would logically fit into a unit on 17th century US history. It could be combined with a study of journals and diaries, with Roop's Diary of Columbus or Morpurgo's Wreck of the Zanzibar, for example. A teacher may want to look at superstitions of this community, combining it with Jenkins' Duck's Breath and Mouse Pie and asking students to record their own community's superstitions. Teachers may want to focus on medical practices, law enforcement, or other aspects of life that are described so naturally. Maybe teachers will want to look at communities with a sociological perspective and ask what is a society? The book makes compelling reading and will be appreciated by many.

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June, 1996

Author : **Bunting, E.**

Illustrator : Himler, R.

Title : **A Day's Work**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Clarion Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-67321-6

Type : fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a : y

ESL : y

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : cultural differences, immigration, migrant workers, work, family relations, grandfathers, honesty, learning a second language

Summary : When a Mexican-American boy tries to help his Spanish-speaking grandfather find a day's work, he lies about what the man is qualified to do. After a full day, the lie is exposed, and the grandfather teaches the boy a lesson about honesty.

Teaching Ideas : This intergenerational story could be used simply as a read aloud, but there are several issues which students may wish to respond to either through discussion or in writing, such as the difficulties in family relationships when roles are altered, the vulnerability that comes with stepping into a new culture, the importance of work and of honesty. ESL teachers may want to use the book to discuss language barriers, while Family Literacy teachers may want to emphasize using life experiences to help children learn important lessons. The book lends itself to storytelling about family history.

June, 1996

Author : **Burleigh, R.**

Illustrator : Wimmer, M.

Title : **Flight**

Date : 1991

Publisher : Philomel Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22272-3

Type : biography

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : y

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : Charles Lindbergh, airplanes, 20th century history, biography, science of flying, taking risks, American heroes

Summary : This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of Lindbergh's daring flight over the Atlantic in 1927. It opens with a brief historical note by author Jean Fritz.

Teaching Ideas : This book fits well in a unit with View from the Air (by Lindbergh's daughter), Provensen's Glorious Flight, Jefferis' Flight (a Timelines book), and Freedman's The Wright Brothers. Some teachers may choose to use the book in a science or math and geography unit, while others may focus on biography and US history. Teachers may want to ask students how the author so adeptly manages to create suspense when we know the outcome. Students may want to follow this reading by researching later events in Lindbergh's life or by reading newspaper or magazine accounts of Lindbergh's flight.

June, 1996

Author : **Carson, J.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Stories I Ain't Told Nobody Yet**

Date : 1989

Publisher : Orchard Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-05808-5

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : poetry, family history, community, Appalachia, mountain life

Summary : A collection of forty-nine poems, these vignettes of Appalachian life are funny, sad, moving, and silly. Not all of them are of great quality; teachers may want to pick and choose among them. The poem (on pg. 50) on abuse is powerful and likely to provoke good discussion.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to collect phrases, speech rhythms and patterns, and stories from a relative, and then write a poem about that person using his or her words. Teachers may use the poems to discuss dialect or to have students read them aloud in pairs. Some of these poems would fit well in a thematic unit on abuse, work, family, or rural life. It may be fun to pair this book with others set in Appalachia, like Lyon's Choices, Rylant's and Evans' Something Permanent, or Rylant's Appalachia: Voices of Sleeping Birds. This collection is likely to inspire students to write about their lives.

June, 1996

Author : **Cooper, F.**

Illustrator : Cooper, F.

Title : **Coming Home**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Philomel

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22682-6

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : biography, African-American history, 20th century US history, poetry, Langston Hughes' childhood

Summary : The book tells the story of Langston Hughes' lonely childhood, demonstrating that certain themes and ideas that later emerged in Hughes' poetry grew from his experiences as a child.

Teaching Ideas : This book may be fun to read aloud after a few class sessions of studying Hughes' poetry (see especially The Dream Keepers and Other Poems or The Book of Rhythms). Teachers may want to use this book as part of a unit on writers' biographies, looking also at Kroll's Lives of Writers, or the biographical sketches in Agard and Nichols' A Caribbean Dozen, or Bedard's Emily. It would fit neatly into a unit on influential African-Americans, along with biographies such as Davis' Dear Benjamin Banneker, or Adler's Jesse Owens.

June, 1996

Author : **Coville, B.** Illustrator : Sanderson, R.

Title : **William Shakespeare's The Tempest** Date : 1994

Publisher : Doubleday City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-385-32056-6

Type : drama
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : drama, Shakespeare, families, island life, romance, love

Summary : This is a prose retelling of Shakespeare's play The Tempest, a story of an exiled Duke and his daughter during their stay on an enchanted island. The book ends with an author's note.

Teaching Ideas : This book may serve as a good introduction to William Shakespeare. GED teachers may want students to read an act of the play (or all of it) and read this as accompaniment. Teachers may want students to work on enlarging their vocabularies with this text, looking for clues to the meanings of the words by examining the contexts. (For example, Can you guess at what a guise and harpy are from these clues? "Ariel swooped to the table in the guise of a harpy . . . the harpy clapped its brazen wings. . .")

June, 1996

Author : **Craven, M.** Illustrator :

Title : **I Heard the Owl Call my Name** Date : 1973

Publisher : Dell City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-440-34369-0 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : multiculturalism, death, religion, old ways vs. new, Catholic church, Pacific Northwest, Native Americans

Summary : Although this book is not universally appealing, some readers respond emotionally and deeply to this story of a young priest's year with the native American people of British Columbia, his illness, and his acceptance of his fate. The book does not provide easy or sappy resolutions.

Teaching Ideas : This 159 page book may be best suited for students in level 2 or GED. Teachers may begin by reading a chapter or two aloud and then encouraging students to read on their own and keep a reading response journal. The class may want to discuss the various ways cultural heritages equip us to face and deal with death. The book lends itself to nature study and the role of wilderness and of the environment in healing us.

June, 1996

Author : **Delany, S. & Delany, A.E.** Illustrator :

Title : **Having Our Say: The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years** Date : 1993

Publisher : Dell Publishing City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-440-22042-4 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : autobiography
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African Americans, US History, families, communities, civil rights, autobiography

Summary : Bessie was 103 and Sadie was 105 when they collaborated with Amy Hill Hearth to write this story of their lives and times. Additionally the Delany sisters offer their perspectives on society, living conditions, people, events, etc. from the past century.

Teaching Ideas : Portions (or all) of this book could be read aloud to learners. Chapters or part of chapters, such as especially interesting or exciting episodes, could be read as Reader's Theater or oral interpretation pieces also. Learners might enjoy forming literature circles to discuss whatever interests them in the text. They might also keep response logs as they read. Excerpts from the book could be used to supplement and enliven the study of 20th century US history. Learners may become interested in gathering their own family stories/histories. (This is a wonderful, engaging text!)

June, 1996

Author : **Eskridge, A.**

Illustrator :

Title : **The Sanctuary**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Dutton Children's Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-525-65168-3

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : fiction

Themes : urban life, tolerance, intergenerational friendships

Summary : Little Man, age 10, thinks that Tico and Aaron should let him join their gang. But first he must retrieve a piece of junk from the altar "sanctuary" that "crazy" Lucy Johnson built in her backyard. Little Man gets caught and comes to know and love the old woman, whom neighbors think is a witch. Little Man knows he must do something when the block club tries to destroy her sanctuary, which they consider an eyesore.

Teaching Ideas : This is a touching story, based on an actual incident in Detroit some years ago. Teachers may wish to look for newspaper articles about neighbors who are intolerant of one another's differences. Characters are well developed, and their interactions ring true. Students might be interested in tracing Little Man's growing understanding of Lucy or in focusing on the ways in which Lucy teaches Little Man about life. These explorations may lead students to consider how they learned (or teach) life's lessons, times when their first impressions of someone different proved false, etc. The whole novel or parts of it might be read aloud (by the teacher) using a DL-TA format. Students may wish to record their thoughts as the story unfolds by writing in response journals.

June, 1996

Author : **Everett, G.** Illustrator : Lawrence, J.

Title : **John Brown: One Man Against Slavery** Date : 1993

Publisher : Rizzoli International Publications, Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8478-1702-4

Type : historical fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-Americans, slavery, civil disobedience

Summary : This book tells the story of John Brown, white abolitionist and dissident, from the point of view of his daughter Annie. The book brings historical ideas and moral conflicts alive in a personal and elaborate way. The book answers the question: Can one person make a difference? It closes with historical facts on Harper's Ferry and a page of a biography on the exceptional artist, Jacob Lawrence.

Teaching Ideas : This book is likely to spark discussion and may also spark an interest in little known historical figures. Students may want to respond by writing reactions in their journals and then developing opinion pieces on civil disobedience. The book naturally fits into a unit on slavery or on the Civil War. Students may choose to compare the art in this book with others illustrated by Lawrence, such as Harriet and the Promised Land and The Great Migration.

June, 1996

Author : **Foreman, M.**

Illustrator : Foreman, M.

Title : **War Game**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Arcade

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-55970-242-7

Type : historical fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : history

Themes : war, WWI, England, Christmas, soccer

Summary : Based on true events, this book tells about a group of boys who go to fight in the trenches of WWI. It describes the incidents of one amazing Christmas when all animosities are put aside. The powerful anti-war message is accompanied by charming watercolor illustrations; photographs; reprints of WWI posters; and small paragraphs of detailed, factual information.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may chose to read this book aloud to a class and encourage students later to study the posters and war memorabilia. Students may want to write comparison and contrast paragraphs or essays that examine the events and message of the text with the propaganda of the patriotic posters. This book fits logically into a unit on war; in fact, teachers who wish to focus not on one particular war but rather on the human aspect of war may choose to present War Game along with Polacco's Pink and Say or Rylant's I Had Seen Castles.

June, 1996

Author : **Freedman, R.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Kids At Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Clarion Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-58703-4

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : child labor laws, work

Summary : This book tells the story of Lewis Hine, a teacher and photographer who became so concerned about children working in factories that he became an investigative reporter for the National Child Labor Committee in the early 20th century. The pictures he took, the children he met, and the working conditions he observed are also featured in the book. A bibliography and index conclude the book.

Teaching Ideas : This is a long book, so teachers may wish to excerpt it. GED-level learners will be able to read it independently. The teacher could read excerpts aloud to learners at lower levels. The book would be an effective addition to a variety of text sets: child labor, US at the turn of the century, immigration, social reform. The photographs can be studied as an art form. The book could also be part of a study of biography as a genre.
The issue of child labor persists today. Learners may be interested in exploring current conditions or comparing "then" and "now." An inquiry unit focusing on child labor practices in the community might prove interesting. Another alternative might be to explore the issue of child labor from a variety of perspectives, e.g., business owner, consumer, child, parent, educator. Such an exploration might provide an introduction to the study of economics.

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June, 1996

Author : **Freedman, R.** Illustrator :

Title : **The Wright Brothers: How They Invented the Airplane** Date : 1991

Publisher : Holiday House City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8234-0875-2

Type : historical nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : biography

Themes : inventions, Wright brothers, Ohio history, physics

Summary : Original photographs by the Wright brothers complement their story. This is a long, detailed book that also chronicles some of others' work that preceded the Wright brothers' efforts. End notes tell about the photographs, provide a bibliography for further reading, and list places to visit (including several places in Dayton). An index is also provided.

Teaching Ideas : This is a long book, so teachers may wish to excerpt it or encourage learners to use it as a resource book. Parts could be added to text sets about flight, Ohio history, biographies, or photography. Learners might enjoy reading details about early "flying machines" in order to try to build simple models (of cardboard, for example). The psychological portrait of the brothers is interesting, so learners might enjoy speculating on the personality characteristics of successful inventors. Other possibilities include a) studying the photos to determine the story they tell, or b) locating Dayton, Elizabeth City, Kitty Hawk, etc. on maps and calculating miles, travel times, etc.

June, 1996

Author : **Frost, R.**

Illustrator : Young, E.

Title : **Birches**

Date : 1988

Publisher : Henry Holt

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-8050-1316-4

ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : poetry

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural : y

Urban :

GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : poetry, 20th century American literature, Robert Frost, being alive, second chances, figurative language

Summary : On each page Ed Young illustrates trees and forests and the countryside, in browns and sepia tones, and presents them along with several lines of Robert Frost's well-known poem, "Birches." The poem is printed in its entirety again on the last two pages.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to get multiple copies of this book, so that students can hold it in their hands and study it slowly. The illustrations are a terrific aid to comprehension, but because poetry is dense and because Frost is addressing regret and death in subtle ways, teachers will want to allow students time to mull over this book. It may work best with a group of GED students who are studying how to interpret language and understand inferences.

June, 1996

Author : **Gauch, P.** Illustrator : Gammell, S.

Title : **Thunder at Gettysburg** Date : 1990

Publisher : G.P. Putman City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22201-4

Type : historical fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : Civil War, 19th century US History, Gettysburg, death

Summary : This book is written in five chapters of free verse and tells the story of a young girl who was a witness to the battle of Gettysburg in 1863. The text is accompanied by several line drawings and a concluding historical note.

Teaching Ideas : This book fits well into a unit on the Civil War, especially with Polacco's Pink and Say. Students may want to record their observations in a reading journal or may work to write a comparison description of an event that they lived through which affected them and changed them deeply. Teachers may want to discuss the dream-like quality of the art and the progression in the text from excitement and glory to compassion and grief.

June, 1996

Author : **Gherman, B.** Illustrator : Marchesi, S.

Title : **The Mysterious Rays of Dr. Rontgen** Date : 1994

Publisher : Macmillan Publishing Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-689-31839-1

Type : nonfiction, biography
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : discoveries, scientific research, physics

Summary : This biography focuses on Rontgen's discovery of x-rays, the ways he researched and shared his findings with others, and the impact of his discovery on modern life. Author's notes, a chronology, and a bibliography conclude the book.

Teaching Ideas : The book raises more questions about x-rays than it answers, which may spark learners' curiosity. Learners might also enjoy reading biographies of Rontgen's contemporaries, such as Thomas Edison. A class book about inventors and those who made important scientific discoveries might result. Teachers could use this as an opportunity to explore using information from a variety of sources, constructing bibliographies, etc. Information in the author's note about groups of scientists working collaboratively and in the text about sharing results of research at scientific meetings could be compared to current similar work (e.g., AIDS research).

June, 1996

Author : **Hall, D.** Illustrator : Moser, B.

Title : **The Farm Summer 1942** Date : 1994

Publisher : Dial Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1501-3

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : grandparents, country and farm life, reminiscence, WWII

Summary : Beautifully illustrated by Barry Moser, this reminiscence tells the story of a young boy's summer months at his grandparents farm during the war.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to use this with other WWII books (such as Rylant's I Had Seen Castles), with other reminiscences about country or rural life (such as with Rylant's When I Was Young in the Mountains) or with other books about grandparents (such as Hendershot's Up the Tracks to Grandma's). Teachers may also want to use this as an introduction to some of Donald Hall's more demanding stories or poems or as part of a unit on the illustrator Barry Moser.

June, 1996

Author : **Hamanaka, S.** Illustrator : Hamanaka, S.

Title : **The Journey** Date : 1990

Publisher : Orchard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-531-07060-3 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : history
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian : y
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : World War II, Japanese-American heritage, modern US history, internment camps, racism

Summary : The text tells the history of the Japanese in America. The photographs depict sections of an enormous mural which the author created to "open the past, hoping to chase away the demons of prejudice and injustice."

Teaching Ideas : This text is dense and complex. ESL classes or family literacy classes may use the book as a read-aloud; level 2 or GED students could deal with the text independently. Teachers may ask students to write personal reactions, focusing on what humans are capable of inflicting and enduring. The book may serve as part of a unit on war or racism or Japanese-American relations.

June, 1996

Author : **Hamilton, V.** Illustrator : Pinkney, J.

Title : **Drylongso** Date : 1992

Publisher : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich City : Orlando, FL

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-224241-4

Type : legend
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : Dust bowl, myths, folk heroes

Summary : Drylongso, which takes place west of the Mississippi in 1975, is the story of a poor farming family's battle with a drought. Drylongso, "a youth imbued with simple human kindness...a folk hero" (author's notes) arrives, and with him comes hope that the horrible drought might end.

Teaching Ideas : A Virginia Hamilton text set, including this title and others in our collection (Anthony Burns, The Bells of Christmas) might be interesting, or students might read Hamilton's work as part of an Ohio author study, which might also include Judith Hendershot and Scott Sanders, for example. If myths have been explored in class, students might discuss/write about the mythic qualities found in the book. Other discussion/writing topics might include the effects of weather disasters or the hardships of rural life. The characters in the story are well developed, so character study might be another use for the book.

June, 1996

Author : **Jefferis, D.** Illustrator : Salariya, D.

Title : **Timelines Flight: Fliers and Flying Machines** Date : 1991

Publisher : Franklin Watts, Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-15233-2

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE :
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : nonfiction, aviation, aviators, war, chart/figure-reading

Summary : This nonfiction book contains information related to aviation and aviators (starting with Daedalus and Icarus). The book is densely illustrated; all illustrations are captioned, and some are labeled. A time line, a glossary, and an index conclude the book.

Teaching Ideas : Excerpts from the book could be used with other material (e.g., myths, WWI or WWII). Portions could be used for figure-reading lessons, as well. Otherwise, this book is probably best used as occasional reference, although learners with interest in the topic may find it enjoyable reading. The pages are visually "busy", and some text is in small type, especially captions and labels.

June, 1996

Author : **Jenkins, S.** Illustrator : Jenkins, S.

Title : **Duck's Breath and Mouse Pie: A Collection of Animal Superstitions** Date : 1994

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-69688-7

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : animals, superstitions

Summary : This is a collection of 17 superstitions about animals. Collage illustrations are interesting. Historical notes at the end of the book explain the origins of the superstitions.

Teaching Ideas : The teacher will want to provide a context for or introduce the book in some way, as it doesn't tell a story. Students might enjoy collecting other superstitions or "old wives' tales" and creating their own book. Some may also be interested in tracing medical practices or learning about out-moded medical practices (e.g., leeching).

June, 1996

Author : **Johnson, D.**

Illustrator : Johnson, D.

Title : **Now Let Me Fly**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Macmillan

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-747699-5

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-American slavery, freedom, determination, hope

Summary : This book gives a fictional account of Minna, a young African girl, taken from her homeland and sold into slavery. The epilogue carries the story forward to the Emancipation Declaration.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to read this book silently and respond by writing in journals or telling their family stories. Students may want to trace the imagery of flying to freedom through other books, song, and folk art. The book fits naturally into a unit on slavery. Perhaps students could each choose one of the many books on slavery (for example, with Lawrence's Harriet and the Promised Land, Berry's Ajeemah and His Sons, Paulsen's Nightjohn, McKissacks' Christmas in the Big House), analyze the book according to content, format, and effectiveness, and make a presentation to the class.

June, 1996

Author : **Kinsey-Warnock, N.** Illustrator : Bowman, L.

Title : **The Night the Bells Rang** Date : 1991

Publisher : Cobblehill City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-525-65074-1

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : World War I, farm life in Vermont, growing up, bullies, abuse, family responsibilities

Summary : This short novel (76 pages), told from the point of view of a farm boy, tells the story of Mason's struggles with a bully, and of his growing up. Although the book has the feel of a reminiscence, the emotions are complex and the characters ring true.

Teaching Ideas : The syntax is easy without being childish, thus it would be appropriate for mid-to-upper level ABE classes. The teacher may want to read much of this book aloud, or ask students to take turns as well. The book provides plenty of room for discussion of characters, of motivations, of human interactions and forgiveness! The book would fit well in a World War I unit, perhaps with Foreman's War Games or Wells' Waiting for Evening Star. Visiting one of the local apple cider mills in the fall or maple sugaring in the late winter would reinforce some of the descriptions.

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June, 1996

Author : **Kitchen, B.**

Illustrator : Kitchen, B.

Title : **When Hunger Calls**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Candlewick Press

City : Cambridge, MA

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-56402-316-8

Type : nonfiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : science

Themes : science, biology, zoology, the food chain, animals, survival of the fittest, the environment

Summary : This stunningly illustrated informational book describes the eating habits of animals from all over the world.

Teaching Ideas : Because Kitchen chose animals from all over the world, map study could be easily included. The brief essays are well written and may serve as models for student writing. A class may choose animals for research, perhaps ones they've seen at a zoo, write brief expositions about how these animals live and eat, collect the entries into a class book, and "publish" it for their children or for relatives. Students may want to compare the nonfiction accounts with fiction or fable (for example, Anansi the Spider tales or Lobel's Frog and Toad series).

June, 1996

Author : **Lasky, K.** Illustrator : Knight, C.

Title : **Surtsey** Date : 1992

Publisher : Hyperion City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 1-56282-300-0

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : geology, volcanoes, literature, creation, islands, the environment, geography

Summary : This lovely book describes the formation of a new volcanic island. Each chapter begins with the Icelandic story of creation, thus combining literature with science. Photographs and charts are included.

Teaching Ideas : This book fits into a unit on the formation of the earth, but the connections with creation ideas provide many possibilities.

June, 1996

Author : **Lerner, C.**

Illustrator : Lerner, C.

Title : **Backyard Birds**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Morrow Junior Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-12819-X

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : science, biology, birds, winter, US geography

Summary : This informational book begins with four pages of data on birds in winter, then provides a one-page entry on many different birds, including a US map of its territory and an illustration for each. The book ends with information on bird food, feeders, and Project FeederWatch.

Teaching Ideas : This is not a book to read from start to finish, but it is an excellent reference book with accurate illustrations. Teachers may want to use it as part of a US geography unit or in a science unit. Students may have a wonderful time learning about the winter birds of their area, looking for them, observing them, writing their own reports about specific birds. Family literacy classes may want to build feeders and then set up observations--which birds feed first? Which feed on the ground? Which feed in pairs? What kinds of seeds do different birds like? Students could develop observational charts.

June, 1996

Author : **Lester, J.** Illustrator : Pinkney, J.

Title : **John Henry** Date : 1994

Publisher : Dial City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1606-0

Type : legend
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : legends, tales, African-American mythology, perserverance, human strength and spirit

Summary : This beautifully illustrated, award-winning book tells the tale of the ex-slave John Henry who outraced the steam engine in digging a tunnel through the side of the Allegheny Mountains. The book begins with introductory notes from both Julius Lester and from the publisher.

Teaching Ideas : As with all tales and legends, teachers must approach this book with care and forethought so that it is not perceived as just a children's story. It could be part of a myths and folktales unit. In his introductory paragraph, Lester wrote about how he has connected Martin Luther King and Henry in his mind because both of them taught us "to have the courage to hammer until our hearts break and to leave our mourners smiling in their tears." It may be best for a read aloud followed by discussion of Lester's point and the tendency of certain tales to speak to needs of the human spirit.

June, 1996

Author : **Lester, J.** Illustrator :

Title : **Long Journey Home** Date : 1972

Publisher : Scholastic Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-590-41433-X ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction, short stories
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE :
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-Americans, short stories, slavery, US history, plantation life, the South

Summary : These 6 short stories are based on historical fact; Lester's notes at the end of the book describe the original sources. Each features an African American protagonist. All are ordinary people who led extraordinary lives.

Teaching Ideas : Individual stories (or the entire book) could supplement study of 19th century US history or the African American experience. Chapter 2 could be part of an Ohio history unit. "Louis" would work very well as a DR-TA. "Ben" and "The Man Who Was a Horse" are wonderful character sketches. Learners might enjoy preparing excerpts of Long Journey Home to read aloud; the story lends itself to oral interpretation.

June, 1996

Author : **Lyon, G.E.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Choices**

Date : 1989

Publisher : University Press of Kentucky

City : Lexington, KY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-8131-0900-0

ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : short stories
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : family life, marriage, being a parent, working hard, perserverance, Appalachian life, rural life, dreams, short stories

Summary : Geroge Ella Lyon, an accomplished writer of children's books, wrote this collection of stories (and its accompanying text, More Choices) specifically for adult new readers; in fact, she conferred with ABE students from Kentucky while creating the book. These 13 powerful stories are written from various people's points of view, telling about working-class American folks' dreams and their hopes and the realities of their lives.

Teaching Ideas : Since students respond warmly to these brief stories, since the reading level is easy but the characters are complex and realistic, there are many ways they can be used. Some could be read aloud by teachers, some by students. Many would be wonderful Reader's Theatre selections. Students may want to follow by responding in journals or by creating their own stories based on similar themes. Teachers may want students to predict or use inferences. The book would fit nicely in a unit on rural living (along with several Rylant titles) or in a unit on Appalachia. Individual stories might be pulled out to be part of a unit on marriage or on parenting. Students may want to research other books by George Ella Lyon (such as Mama is a Miner) and discuss ways they amplify or connect with the stories in Choices. Students may want to write their own stories as a response, which in turn could be published as a class book.

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June, 1996

Author : **Lyon, G.E.**

Illustrator :

Title : **More Choices: Stories for Adult New Readers**

Date : 1990

Publisher : Hard-Pressed Books

City :

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : available through author

Type : short stories
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : life choices, families, community, Appalachian life, violence, regrets, short stories

Summary : These three stories fit with George Ella Lyon's collection Choices, but were not included in the original collection because some readers found them too controversial. Our readers found them powerful and moving, addressing life situations that many ABE students will find real and compelling.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may ask students to read these alone and write journal entries and then read them together and discuss them. Teachers may want to ask students to consider these questions: Is voting a significant issue for you? Why or why not? Do you think it should be? If you could relive any moment of your life and act differently, what moment would it be? Why does Eileen choose an abortion? Which of her reasons are the most significant to you? What is your opinion of the choice she made? Teachers will want to look at others of Lyon's books as well, particularly her set of 13 stories titled Choices, which many ABE students have loved.

June, 1996

Author : **Lyons, M.** Illustrator :

Title : **Letters from a Slave Girl** Date : 1992

Publisher : Scribner's Sons City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-684-19446-5

Type : historical fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : US history, slavery, African-Americans, racism, endurance, hope

Summary : Drawn from her 1861 autobiography, these fictionalized letters tell the story of Harriet Jacobs, a slave from North Carolina who went through great struggles to escape slavery. The book ends with two family trees, one a black family and one white, a glossary of 19th century words, and an extensive bibliography.

Teaching Ideas : Students interested in history, especially in African-American history, will find these letters captivating. Nonetheless, teachers may want to pick and choose, reading some letters aloud and assigning others. The book would fit well in a unit on slavery, on African-American history, or on strong women characters from history. Students who enjoy this book may want to turn to several other books by Mary E. Lyons, including Stitching Stars: The Story Quilts of Harriet Powers or Sorrow's Kitchen: The Life and Folklore of Zora Neale Hurston.

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June, 1996

Author : **Lyons, M.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Starting Home**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Scribner's Sons

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-684-19534-8

Type : biography
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : biography, art, painters, African-American history, World War I, perseverance, work

Summary : The full title of this book is Starting Home: The Story of Horace Pippin, Painter. Lyons tells the story of Pippin, an African-American painter, with a style that makes compelling reading. The book chronicles the effect of history and the impact of World War I on an important black artist.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers who want to encourage students to read biographies as a step into the study of history may want to offer this book as one engaging choice. The book lends itself to writing activities. For example, teachers may ask students to interview each other and write brief biographical sketches to be read aloud. Teachers may want to compare some of Pippin's paintings with Grandma Moses or use this book when profiling the Harlem Renaissance, illustrating how varied black artists' experiences were in different regions of the US. Teachers may want to look at Everett's book on John Brown, who was one of Pippin's subjects for a painting. The book would make a good addition to a unit on work.

June, 1996

Author : **MacLachlan, P.** Illustrator : Wimmer, M.

Title : **All the Places to Love** Date : 1994

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-021099-0

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : family, farms, home, reminiscences

Summary : A young boy talks about all his favorite places, those of his family and his grandparents, the farm and the adjacent countryside. The book is a celebration of those natural settings where we are most alive and feel we belong.

Teaching Ideas : One teacher of ESL found her students reading and rereading this book, and in response asked them to write about their own lands and family homes. The book may serve as a good stimulus for gathering adults' recollections of their own childhoods. It may be part of a unit on community and place, for example, with Lee's Lotus Seed, with Say's Grandfather's Journey, or with Rylant's Appalachia:Voices of Sleeping Birds.

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June, 1996

Author : **Macaulay, D.**

Illustrator : Macaulay, D.

Title : **Castle**

Date : 1977

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin

City : Boston, MA

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-32920-5

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : science, simple machines, architecture, history,medieval times, geography

Summary : This engaging informational book tells the story of the step-by-step planning and construction of a (fictitious) castle in England in the last part of the 13th century. Eventually the castle is attacked by Welsh soldiers, but it withstands the siege. The book is illustrated in black and white with meticulous detail and ends with a full page glossary of terms.

Teaching Ideas : The many readers who prefer informational books to fiction will find Castle a good book to read independently, although it may require higher level reading skills unless the teacher fully explicates the historical or scientific concepts beforehand. A focus on the simple machines (pullies, inclines, etc.) used to build the castle provides a chance to study physics. In a family literacy setting, parents may want to construct a partial model out of cardboard with their children. The book provides wonderful opportunity for vocabulary expansion. Teachers may want to combine this book with others set during this period in history, perhaps designing the unit to culminate in a medieval feast.

June, 1996

Author : **Macaulay, D.**

Illustrator : Macaulay, D.

Title : **Cathedral**

Date : 1973

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin

City : Boston, MA

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-395-31668-5

ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : history

Themes : architecture, Middle Ages, communities, religious life, art

Summary : This fascinating nonfiction book describes the construction of an imaginary castle in medieval France. The illustrations are black and white and very detailed. The book ends with a glossary.

Teaching Ideas : This book fits logically into a study of the Middle Ages or of architecture and tools. Students may want to study it before visiting a cathedral on a field trip. They may want to write journal entries about their own church architecture or their own experiences in building something. Teachers could incorporate math, art, and vocabulary study with this text, or they may choose to look at other excellent books written and illustrated by Macaulay.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

June, 1996

Author : **Macaulay, D.** Illustrator : Macaulay, D.

Title : **Pyramid** Date : 1975

Publisher : Houghton Mifflin Co. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-395-32121-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : Egypt, world history, architecture, death, customs

Summary : Black and white illustrations accompany this nonfiction account, a process of building an Egyptian pyramid. Some teachers may want to use this as a reference; some students may love poring over the details. The book ends with a glossary.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to study the text separate from the illustrations, then the illustrations, and then put the two together in order to see how well they complement each other. Teachers may use this in a unit on Egypt, on tools, or on architecture (in connection with Macaulay's Cathedral, Castle, or with Morris' Houses and Homes). Students may want to write journal entries about other customs that deal with death and dying.

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June, 1996

Author : **Mariotti, M.**

Illustrator : Mariotti, M.

Title : **Hanimations**

Date : 1988

Publisher : Kane/Miller Book Publishers

City : Brooklyn, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-916291-22-7

Type : wordless
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : photography, humor, artistic creations

Summary : A continuation of Hanimals, this wordless book is a collection of whimsical photographs of hands that have been painted and arranged to make fascinating shapes. As one ABE teacher said, "I've never met an adult who wasn't intrigued by these books."

Teaching Ideas : Family Literacy and ESL teachers could use these to provoke discussions. ABE teachers may want to use them for writing prompts. Students might simply describe what they see, or perhaps for an exercise in careful description, they could pair up, with one person describing the page through writing, while the other one finds the matching photo.

June, 1996

Author : **McCloskey, R.**

Illustrator : McCloskey, R.

Title : **Time of Wonder**

Date : 1977

Publisher : Puffin Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-050201-7

ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : science, storms, hurricanes, weather, Maine, the environment, geography, life by the ocean

Summary : This picture book tells a factual story of a family living along the ocean in Maine and what happens to the area when a hurricane brews. It is told to a child reader, and the art is fairly primitive, and thus teachers will want to take care to present it in a context that does not allow adult readers to feel they are being treated as children. The content of the book is not childish and could easily be used to supplement science units.

Teaching Ideas : ABE teachers may want to use the book as a read aloud followed by a discussion or study of the weather and the environment. Family literacy teachers may want to supplement the reading of the book with a map and follow with natural history lessons.

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June, 1996

Author : **McKissack, P.& McKissack, F.** Illustrator : Thompson, J.

Title : **Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters** Date : 1994

Publisher : Scholastic, Inc. City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-43027-0

Type : historical fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-Americans, slavery, freedom, determination, experience, hope

Summary : This story describes the customs used in both the plantation house and the slave quarters during the Christmas season during slavery years. The amount of detail--even recipes and songs are included--is unusual, and yet the book flows well and makes compelling reading. It ends with several pages of explanatory notes and a bibliography. Teachers need to approach this book with care, since some readers, because of the book's even-handed tone, may not be struck with the cruel irony of slave families being broken up on New Year's Day, while other readers may react very emotionally.

Teaching Ideas : This book lends itself to compare and contrast activities, such as Venn diagrams or distinctive feature charts. Students could explore the traditional culture of those who lived in the plantation house versus those who lived in the quarters. Students may want to follow by reading biographies of Harriet Tubman or John Brown and follow with projects on folk songs or on the art of storytelling. Students may also want to research the other Coretta Scott King award winners or look for other McKissack books.

June, 1996

Author : **Meltzer, M.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Cheap Raw Material: How Our Youngest Workers Are Exploited and Abused**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Penguin Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-670-83128-X

Type : nonfiction

Rating : G

Young Adult : y

Picture :

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : history

Themes : work, child labor, US history, exploitation, economics, poverty

Summary : This book is a chronological nonfiction account of children as laborers. Child labor in the US is the focus, but historical backround (e.g., Rome, England) is also provided. This history is chronicled through quotations from primary sources, stories of children who labored, and presentation of pertinent statistics. A bibliography, source notes, and an index conclude the book.

Teaching Ideas : This book (or excerpts from it) might work well with Paterson's Lyddie. Those interested in the workplace or children's advocacy might be particularly interested in it. Excerpts could also be used to supplement study of eras in US history (e.g., pre-Civil War, Great Depression). The notion of exploitation of workers (to include migrant workers and modern-day sweat shops) could also provide a focus for study. Students might become interested in social action projects as a result of this book, e.g., to explore safety conditions where young people now work, as in fast-food restaurants. They may also be interested in the broader issues of labor laws, safety in the workplace, etc. The final few chapters could be used for study of propaganda techniques.

June, 1996

Author : **Monceaux, M.**

Illustrator : Monceaux, M.

Title : **Jazz: My Music, My People**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Alfred A. Knopf, Inc

City : New York

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-679-85618-8

Type : biography

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American : y

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : life in 30s-40s; art; jazz; music biographies; African-American history

Summary : This stunningly illustrated book offers short biographies of dozens of musicians, from Leadbelly and Jelly Roll Morton to Lena Horne and Dizzy Gillespie.

Teaching Ideas : Students may want to learn more about a particular musician or a particular era. The Harlem Renaissance might be a topic of interest as well. Or students may wish to focus on other African-American artists who were contemporaries of many of these musicians (e.g., Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes). Finally, the art form is interesting and may provoke discussion or further exploration.

June, 1996

Author : **Morris, A.** Illustrator :

Title : **Houses and Homes** Date : 1992

Publisher : Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-10168-2

Type : photos, nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : architecture, homes, documentary, international photos

Summary : A fascinating photographic collection of houses in different world cultures. The photos show how colorfully diverse homes and people are. There is very little text, but the index at the end identifies the location of each home.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to use these for writing prompts with Level One students. Or teachers may use this book in a study of cultures of the world with map skills. Students may want to bring in photos of their favorite houses or of homes where they have lived.

June, 1996

Author : **Morris, L.L.**

Illustrator : Deran, D.

Title : **Morning Milking**

Date : 1991

Publisher : Picture Book Studio

City : Saxonville, MA

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-88708-173

Type : reminiscence

Rating : G

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL : y

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural : y

Urban :

GED Descriptors :

Themes : farm life, reminiscences, storytelling, families, the passing of time

Summary : Although one OLRC reviewer was concerned that urban readers recognize the relevance of this quiet, reflective book, we found this gentle story of a farm child wishing she could make time stand still a lovely celebration of life, of barns and animals, and the connectedness of humans to the earth and to each other.

Teaching Ideas : This book would make a good read aloud or would fit well into several units: farm or rural life (using it with Paulsen's Winter Room or MacLachlan's All the Places to Love or MacLachlan's What You Know First, for example); family stories and storytelling (using it with Paulsen's Winter Room or Yolen's Letting Swift River Go), or with reminiscences (paired with Rylant's Appalachia: Voices of Sleeping Birds). Teachers may want to ask students to read and reread, paying attention to the language and the way the author creates images, then ask students to write their own stories of childhood settings.

June, 1996

Author : **Murphy, J.** Illustrator :

Title : **Across America on an Emigrant Train** Date : 1993

Publisher : Clarion Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-63390-7

Type : nonfiction, biography
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : Robert Louis Stevenson, biography, travel across the US, Hawaii

Summary : This nonfiction account of Robert Louis Stevenson's train trip form New York to California combines Stevenson's words from his letters and diary, a factual description of the railroad industry and the 19th century US West, and amazing old photographs and drawings.

Teaching Ideas : Students who are interested in Stevenson's travels may want also to look at Stanley's The Last Princess, which provides background to the history of Hawaii. This book would fit well in a unit on the US West or in a unit on biographies of famous writers (with Bedard's Emily or Stanley and Vennema's Charles Dickens, for example).

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June, 1996

Author : **Murphy, J.** Illustrator : Kiesler, K.

Title : **Into the Deep Forest: With Henry David Thoreau** Date : 1995

Publisher : Clarion Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-395-60522-9

Type : journal
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : Thoreau, Walden, biography, the environment, memoirs, nature, autobiography, transcendentalism, botany, Maine, 19th century American literature, New England, journeys, journal writing

Summary : In this 39 page book, Thoreau's journal entries have been placed into a broader context and are accompanied by stunning paintings and pencil drawings. The use of present tense verb form may be off putting for some readers.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers, especially GED teachers who want students to study Thoreau, will find dozens of ways to approach this book. It would be a good introduction to a field trip to nearby woods. Each student could record their trek in a journal, noting animals, birds, tracks etc., using compasses and natural signs to find their way. Students could put together an ecology chart from the book (11 types of fish are listed. What kind of water do they live in? How does the terrain change with the higher altitude?). The book provides material for a discussion and writing project about how we use our solitude and self sufficiency or for discussion on our preoccupation with making money. Students could study the metaphors and similes (Ex. p. 37 "It's like sitting in a chimney and waiting for the smoke to blow away."), and could write their own for passages without them. An advanced group might look at Thoreau's Civil Disobedience essay and discuss its influence on M. L. King. The book ties in with other New England books like Waiting for the Evening Star or fictional biographies of other American writers (i.e:, Cooper's Coming Home; Bedard's Emily). Students may want to use maps and plot Thoreau's progress. Finally, teachers may simply want to read this aloud and let students appreciate the art.

June, 1996

Author : **Myers, W.D.** Illustrator :

Title : **Now Is Your Time! The African-American Stuggle for Freedom** Date : 1991

Publisher : HarperCollins City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-446120-3 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : nonfiction
Rating : W
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : US history, African American experience

Summary : The subtitle of this book is The African-American Struggle for Freedom. The book contains 23 chapters on topics such as the Dred Scott Case, and Brown vs. Board of Education, an afterward, an author's note, a bibliography, and an index.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will find this to be an excellent resource book. The photographs and lists and compelling text present many ways to involve the reader. Teachers might excerpt chapters for use in units on history or biography or create a class timeline.

June, 1996

Author : **Myers, W.D.** Illustrator :

Title : **Somewhere In The Darkness** Date : 1992

Publisher : Scholastic Inc. City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-590-42412-2 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors :

Themes : modern urban life, father-son relationships, generations, righting wrongs

Summary : Jimmy, a teenager, lives in the city with Mama Jean. Then he meets Crab, a "man with something to prove. Maybe Crab's not sure what it is; maybe Jimmy's not sure he wants to know. But it may be the last chance Crab has to tell Jimmy who he was, and who he is. His father" (back of book).

Teaching Ideas : The character development makes it seem as if readers are actually there with Jimmy. Learners may wish to develop ongoing character sketches of Jimmy and Crab. Crab's character, especially, becomes clearer as the story progresses. The book also lends itself to discussion: the ways people interact in New York, Cleveland, Chicago, and Arkansas; the difference the trip might make in Jimmy's adult life; why Jimmy repeatedly asks Crab about his father C.C.; how parents and children reconcile.

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June, 1996

Author : **Paulsen, G.** Illustrator : Paulsen, R.W.

Title : **Father Water, Mother Woods** Date : 1994

Publisher : Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-385-32053-1

Type : essays
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping, northern US, seasons.

Summary : These essays recount Paulsen's adventures alone and with friends, along the rivers and in the woods of Northern Minnesota. Paulsen shows us fishing, hunting, and camping as pleasure, as art, as companionship, and as sources of lessons about life.

Teaching Ideas : Those interested in the outdoors will be particularly interested in this book, although "Camping" is likely to appeal to all (especially if used as a DR-TA or DL-TA). The description of a deer's death ("Bow Hunting") is haunting; the story could easily tie to current controversy regarding animal rights, etc. Many of the essays about fishing contain a great deal of detail. Group mapping or development of a comparison-contrast chart (e.g., different types of fishing) might be good instructional choices. Learners might enjoy writing and sharing exciting stories from their childhoods or teenage years.

June, 1996

Author : **Pinkney, A.** Illustrator : Pinkney, B.

Title : **Dear Benjamin Banneker** Date : 1994

Publisher : Harcourt, Brace & Co City : San Diego, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-200417-3

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : African-American heroes, scientists, astronomy, US history, civil rights, constitution, slavery, Thomas Jefferson, courage

Summary : The book tells the life story of Benjamin Banneker, an 18th century African-American scientist. The book begins with two pages of data from the author, placing Banneker in an historical context.

Teaching Ideas : This book provides information about a distinguished man who has been often overlooked by historians and scientists. Since the book is not driven by its plot, teachers may want to combine this with others in a unit on biography, on scientists, on African-American heroes, or on Post-Revolutionary history (including the Constitution, The Bill of Rights, or Thomas Jefferson). Or teachers may want to introduce students to the idea of the almanac and offer this book as a read-aloud for background information.

June, 1996

Author : **Polacco, P.**

Illustrator : Polacco, P.

Title : **Pink and Say**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Philomel Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-399-22671-0

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : Civil War, death, African-Americans, friendships that span cultures and ethnicities, storytelling, families, the role of history, war, Abraham Lincoln, literacy

Summary : This long picture book tells the story of Pinkus Aylee, an African-American soldier in the Civil War, and of his mother, Moe Moe Bay and of his friendship with a young white boy. A moving book that may be more appropriate for adults than for children; it celebrates the lives of people who otherwise would be forgotten.

Teaching Ideas : Although lengthy for a picture book and although the dialect can present a problem, this book makes a wonderful read-aloud. Teachers may want to have students study slavery and the Civil War and end the unit with this emotional story. Students may want to respond with their own family histories or by writing in journals about their friendships with people of other races and cultures. Students may want to look at other books by Polacco, especially Chicken Sunday. Students may also want to create a chart of all the books they've read that deal with literacy issues (such as Paulsen's Nightjohn and Adler's Frederick Douglass) and compare how each book deals with the subject.

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June, 1996

Author : **Provensen, A. & Provensen, M.** Illustrator : Provensen, A. & Provensen, M.

Title : **The Glorious Flight Across the Channel with Louis Bleriot** Date : 1983

Publisher : Penguin Books City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-14-050729-9 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : historical fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : history, geography, science-especially flight

Summary : Teachers should note that the child's perspective and art might put some adult readers off. However, this retelling of Louis Bleriot's flight across the English Channel broadens Americans' view of Orville and Wilbur Wright.

Teaching Ideas : This book fits well into a unit on flight with Freedman's The Wright Brothers and Burleigh's Flight. Teachers might want to point out the stages of evolution of Bleriot's planes and what he learns each time. What does this portrait tell us about inventors?

June, 1996

Author : **Roop, P. & Roop, C.** Illustrator : Farley, R.

Title : **Capturing Nature: The Writings of John James Audubon** Date : 1993

Publisher : Walker and Company City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8027-8204-3

Type : journal
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : journals, biography, science--especially ornithology, history, birds, work

Summary : This forty-page book contains excerpts from the journals of Audubon, along with his color paintings of birds.

Teaching Ideas : Level one and two teachers may want to read this aloud, since it is quite interesting, but the language is archaic and syntax complicated at times. GED students may choose to work through the book independently. The difficulties Audubon faced in finding his calling might open up discussions on work and careers. Teachers may want to point out to students that Audubon's mother was black. Students may want to combine this book with bird study (using the Lerner Backyard Birds of Winter, for example), or animal study (using books by Bert Kitchen). Or they may want to look at other diaries, such as the Roop edition of Columbus' journal.

June, 1996

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator :

Title : **A Couple of Kooks and other Stories About Love** Date : 1990

Publisher : Dell City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-440-21210-3 ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : short stories
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : love, family, dating, marriage, parenting, babies

Summary : All of these eight short stories are appropriate for ABE or ESL classes, and some will work well in Family Literacy settings as well. The focus of the stories is on the small details of being in love, of the wonder and delight that love can bring. Some students may be bothered by the small print.

Teaching Ideas : The entire collection of stories will appeal to some readers, but teachers may choose one or two stories to present in class. "Clematis" may be especially popular with older students; teachers may want to encourage students to draw a sketch of Ruth or to write a list of telling details about her personality and character. Students may want to write one of the stories from a different person's point of view, find photographs that would fit various stories, or find the David Bowie music that begins the title story.

June, 1996

Author : **Rylant, C.**

Illustrator : Evans, W.

Title : **Something Permanent**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Harcourt, Brace & Co

City : San Diego, CA

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-15-277090-9

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : poetry, photography, The Great Depression, American rural life, poverty, dreams

Summary : Walker Evans' photographs of southern United States during the Depression years are stark and haunting, and Cynthia Rylant's short poems describe their stories beautifully.

Teaching Ideas : These photos and poems make an excellent complement to any discussion of the Great Depression or a good introduction to the theme of the Great Migration. Teachers may want to use the photos as a prompt for writing poetry, then compare thoughts to those expressed by Rylant and discuss the poems' connections to the photos. Teachers may also want to use these poems as a springboard to poetry writing, particularly to some of the easier forms such as cinquains and diamantes. Students may want to make connections between the photos and Lyon's book of short stories, Choices.

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June, 1996

Author : **Rylant, C.** Illustrator : Moser, B.

Title : **The Dreamer** Date : 1993

Publisher : Blue Sky Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-590-47341-7

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : creation, art

Summary : A tale or allegorical story in which an artist creates the earth, sky, water, animals, and people, who are artists "in his own image." This simple well known story will be familiar and appreciated by many readers.

Teaching Ideas : It may be best not to "overteach" this book. Teachers may want to use this as a read aloud. Students may want to respond by writing in a journal. Or students may want to read this to themselves.

June, 1996

Author : **Scieszka, J.** Illustrator : Smith, L.

Title : **Math Curse** Date : 1995

Publisher : Viking City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 067086194-4

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : mathematics, learning, puzzles, logical reasoning, school, math anxiety

Summary : This book is a zany spoof about a child who hates math. Although this is clearly from a child's perspective, adults enjoy the puzzles and can appreciate the frustration over math questions.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to lead a class discussion with the group creating as many math problems as they can come up with. Students could do the math problems in the book, or students might want to explore the science curse mentioned at the end. With multiple copies, teachers might ask pairs of learners to pick thier favorite illustrations and figure out the symbolism.

June, 1996

Author : **Simon, S.**

Illustrator : Simon, S.

Title : **Winter Across America**

Date : 1994

Publisher : Hyperion

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-7868-0019-4

Type : nonfiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : science

Themes : winter, photography, American winter landscape, animals, the environment, geography

Summary : Part of a series on the seasons, Winter Across America is loosely structured around the photographs and packs a huge amount of natural history and scientific information about animals, migration, and weather. The strength of the book is in its gorgeous photos, and thus teachers may want to use excerpts or supplement the text with specific informational books that allow the students to study the various concepts in greater depth.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to use a large US map and plot out the various weather patterns, migratory patterns, and settings mentioned in the book. This book may serve as a good model for students to compile their own photography books on winter in their region (either taking their own photos or collecting those they like from newspapers and magazines). Students may want to choose one topic mentioned in the book (brook trout, or maple syrup, or chickadees, for example) and study how it is affected by the weather. Students may also want to find a winter poem that fits one of the photographs.

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June, 1996

Author : **Stanley, D. & Vennema, P.** Illustrator : Stanley, D.

Title : **Charles Dickens: The Man Who Had Great Expectations** Date : 1993

Publisher : William Morrow & Co City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-688-09110-5

Type : biography
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : literature, history, Dickens

Summary : This engaging biography tells the life story of 19th century novelist, Charles Dickens.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to read a passage of Dickens (David Copperfield or the Death of Little Nell, for example) aloud (perhaps as a DL-TA) and then invite students to read this biography. Teachers might want to encourage students to pay close attention to the detailed illustrations which reveal a lot about Dickens' times. Teachers may want students to reflect on how writing can affect changes in the world and discuss the reform laws.

June, 1996

Author : **Stanley, D. & Vennema, P.**

Illustrator : Stanley, D.

Title : **Good Queen Bess: The Story of Elizabeth I of England**

Date : 1990

Publisher : Macmillan Publishing Co.

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-786810-9

Type : history

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family :

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : history

Themes : 17th century British life, monarchy, Elizabethan period, religious history, politics

Summary : This is a biography of Elizabeth I of England, a queen whose strong will, shrewd diplomacy, tolerance, and concern for her subjects make her one of the best known British monarchs.

Teaching Ideas : GED students will be able to read this book independently; teachers will want to provide support for others or to read the book aloud. All will appreciate the interesting detail and historical accuracy of the information provided. Learners might want to develop chronologies or timelines of important events depicted in the book. The idea of peace leading to cultural growth could also be explored, perhaps by comparing the Elizabethan period to the Renaissance. Elizabeth's decisions and actions could become a framework for learners to discuss qualities of effective leadership. The book might also spur interest in the monarchy or women in history. For more information learners might enjoy the PBS series, "Elizabeth R", or the movie Mary, Queen of Scots.

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June, 1996

Author : **Stanley, F.** Illustrator : Stanley, D.

Title : **The Last Princess** Date : 1991

Publisher : Four Winds Press City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-786785-4

Type : biography
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : American 19th century history, Hawaii, royalty and monarchies, loss

Summary : This biography recounts the history of Hawaii at the end of the 19th century and the life of the last Hawaiian heir, Princess Ka'iulani, who was denied the throne when the monarchy was abolished.

Teaching Ideas : The book includes maps, historical detail, and guide to pronounciations, and thus is well suited for historical and geographical study. Teachers may want to include this book with other biographies or use it to introduce systems of government.

June, 1996

Author : **Temple, F.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Taste of Salt**

Date : 1992

Publisher : HarperTrophy

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : 0-06-447136-5

ISBN # (Hardback) :

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : Haiti, survival, Aristides,dreams, storytelling, political current events, geography, war, oppression, Caribbean history, military regimes

Summary : This gripping novel tells the story of two teenagers in Haiti, Djo, one of Aristides' orphaned boys who is hospitalized with terrible injuries, and Jeremie, a convent-educated girl who visits Djo to hear his stories and who begins to fall in love with him. The book includes a fair bit of dialect and a three-page glossary of Haitian terms and thus may be especially appropriate for GED level readers and upper level ESL readers from the Caribbean.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers will want to prepare students by introducing Haiti through news articles and discussions of geography and of current events. Because of the book's political nature and the recent US role in Haiti, teachers may want to ground students first in a full context and then push for lots of discussion, reaction papers, and journal responses. Teachers may also want to introduce some of the dialect and talk about variations in language. Students may want to make comparisons to the United States (for example, the issue of voting in Haiti as compared to the often apathetic attitude here) or may want to write about what they think the future holds for Jeremie and Djo. Teachers may ask students to pay attention to the artistic ways Temple uses language, perhaps by keeping lists of particularly effective phrases or sentences. Students may also wish to write about the significance of the title.

June, 1996

Author : **Temple, F.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Tonight, By Sea**

Date : 1995

Publisher : Orchard Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-531-08749-2

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : history, especially of the Caribbean, politics, economics, economic slavery, current events, oppressed people

Summary : A Haitian girl, Paulie, secretly joins with her village to secretly build and launch a boat and escape to Miami. The book is full of dialect and may be too difficult for some readers. But the subject matter and compelling story make it good reading.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers may want to bring this story up to date and, through use of newspapers, attempt to evaluate what has happened since Aristides' return to Haiti. Have things improved? What has the role of the US government been? Students may want to explore the questions of what Paulie would find if she went back to Haiti now. What would her life in Miami be like? Students may want to keep a current events journal along with the reading of this book. Teachers may want to provide help with dialect and lead discussions on the experience of illegal and legal immigration. It would fit into a unit with Thomas' Lights on the River and Bunting's How Many Days to America? Readers may want also to read Temple's prize winning book Taste of Salt, also set in Haiti.

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June, 1996

Author : **Thomas, J.R.** Illustrator : Dooling, M.

Title : **Lights on the River** Date : 1994

Publisher : Hyperion Books for Children City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) : ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-7868-0004-6

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a : y
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : migrant life, rural life, Mexico, community, family, homes, rivers, economy, holidays, Christmas, cultural customs

Summary : A migrant girl keeps memories of her grandma close as she deals with hard times in the United States. Her voice is strong, and the illustrations are stunning.

Teaching Ideas : This would be a wonderful beginning to a unit on immigration, to introduce illegal vs. legal immigration, to combine with current events and newspapers, or to look at historically with information on Cesar Chavez and UFW, grape and lettuce boycotts, etc. Teachers might want to use the book to compare and contrast her life on farms vs. her life in Mexico; immigrants today vs. immigrants in other countries or at other times.

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June, 1996

Author : **Turner, A.**

Illustrator : Himler, R.

Title : **Katie's Trunk**

Date : 1992

Publisher : Macmillan Co

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-02-789512-2

Type : fiction

Rating : W

Young Adult :

Picture : y

Asian :

African American :

Latino/a :

ESL :

Family : y

ABE : y

Rural :

Urban :

GED Descriptors : US history

Themes : war, American Revolution

Summary : This book, which provides a glimpse of the beginnings of the American Revolution, is based on a true incident that happened to one of the author's ancestors. It's set around the time of the Boston Tea Party and tells the story of what happened to Katie, a Tory child, on the day the "rebels" came to her house near the woods.

Teaching Ideas : Since this is based on a true story, it works well within a unit about telling or writing true stories or family history. Among books about the Revolutionary War, the "Tory" perspective in this book is probably unique and will provoke interesting discussion, comparisons, etc. For example, students may wish to develop the political positions of the Tories and the Revolutionaries. Teachers may want to pair this book with others that describe people hiding during war times. Katie's character is well developed and could be used for character study. The text contains many effective uses of language--details, simile and metaphor, pacing--that could also be examined.

June, 1996

Author : **Van Leeuwen, J.**

Illustrator : Allen, T.

Title : **Going West**

Date : 1992

Publisher : Dial Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1027-5

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : memoirs, relocation, westward expansion

Summary : Seven-year-old Hannah recalls her family's journey west in a covered wagon and relocation on the prairie.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers should read this book carefully, with learners in mind, before using it. Some members of the OLRC Reading Group found the book too simplistic and full of quick solutions, but others believed it to be a suitable comparison to expository selections about the Westward Expansion. Lessons featuring this and related titles (Aurora Means Dawn, Dakota Dugout) would enable adult learners to compare different treatments of the same events, draw their own conclusions about plot simplicity, etc., which might lead to an interesting discussion of whether particular titles paint inappropriately "rosy" pictures of pioneer life (and why authors might choose to do so). The book might also make a good read-aloud.

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June, 1996

Author : **Wells, R.**

Illustrator : Jeffers, S.

Title : **Waiting for the Evening Star**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Dial Books

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-8037-1398-3

Type : fiction
Rating : W
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors : history

Themes : early 20th century, WWI, farm life, reminiscences

Summary : This beautifully illustrated book is about Berty, a small boy who lives a happy life in a Vermont farming community. Berty's life changes when his older brother, Luke, decides to leave the family farm to become a soldier in WWI.

Teaching Ideas : This book could be added to text sets about war, rural life, reminiscences, or coming-of-age. The language of the text is descriptive and often poetic, so the book could spark discussions about figurative language or effective written descriptions ("showing, not telling"). Luke's decision to leave the family, along with other family members' reactions, could provide focus for comparison/contrast or point-of-view lessons. Writing extensions or discussion topics might include growing up; how one family member's decisions affect others in the family; pros and cons of extended families; helping children adjust to change; the independent, self-contained life of rural 1900s vs. the dependent life of today, etc. This would pair nicely with Kinsey-Warnock's The Night the Bells Rang.

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June, 1996

Author : **Wood, N.**

Illustrator : Howell, F.

Title : **Spirit Walker**

Date : 1993

Publisher : Doubleday

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-385-30927-9

Type : poetry
Rating : G
Young Adult :
Picture : y
Asian :
African American :
Latino/a :
ESL : y
Family : y
ABE : y
Rural : y
Urban :
GED Descriptors :

Themes : poetry, Native Americans, women, the earth, philosophy

Summary : This stunningly illustrated book of poetry celebrates a physical relationship with the earth and the philosophies, vision and perspectives of Native Americans, especially the women.

Teaching Ideas : Creative teachers will find many ways to look at Howell's illustrations, paintings that use vivid color and detail in rich ways. The vocabulary of the poems is accessible; most readers will not find them difficult to understand or to comment on, either through discussion or through written responses. The feminist tone of many of the poems may spark lively discussion and controversy.

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June, 1996

Author : **Wright, R.**

Illustrator :

Title : **Rite of Passage**

Date : 1994

Publisher : HarperCollins

City : New York, NY

ISBN # (Paperback) :

ISBN # (Hardback) : 0-06-023419-9

Type : fiction
Rating : G
Young Adult : y
Picture :
Asian :
African American : y
Latino/a :
ESL :
Family :
ABE : y
Rural :
Urban : y
GED Descriptors : literature

Themes : urban life, gangs, survival

Summary : The book is set in Harlem in the late 1940s. Protagonist Johnny Gibbs, 15, is a model child and student until he learns that he is a foster child who must go to live with another family. Johnny feels betrayed and reacts by running away. What follows pushes Johnny out of childhood innocence and causes him to realize that the world is a hostile and sometimes violent place.

Teaching Ideas : Teachers should be aware that there's some violence in this book. The novel would be a good introduction to Wright's work; the Afterword sets this story into the larger context of Wright's literary contributions. The protagonist (Johnny) would make a good subject for character study; learners might consider how and why he changed, for example, as well as which of his personality traits stayed constant throughout the story. "Then and Now" discussions or writing could center on urban social problems or the role of women. Other discussion/writing topics include social agencies, foster care, decision-making, effects of rash decisions, young people and crime.

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